

Voice of People on Issues of the Day.

Our Next Mayor.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Having been an enforced exile from my home in my native city of Richmond, by reason of the infirmities of age and disease, my interest in her welfare and prosperity, though not, and never can, flag, while life lasts, it was, therefore, after a long wait, I received your yesterday's issue, learned the result of the primary election of the day before, with great satisfaction. I agree with all you have said of the "cleanliness and honesty" of the present incumbent, and have never heard, from any one, a word or hint, derogatory to those most valuable points in the character of a public official. But may we not hope and expect the same characteristics will control the official life of the man selected Tuesday at the polls? May we not hope and expect much more from the man chosen this week, for our city's chief executive in the years to come? No one doubts his love for, and desire to promote the prosperity of his home city; very few, if any, doubt his intelligence and capacity to investigate all the details of the records of every department of the city government; or his courage and resolution to require that they shall not be kept otherwise than correctly.

I have heard citizens in the last campaign express the fear that he was erratic and impulsive, and thus not suited to fill such an office. He has filled one very important office thoroughly well, the financial interests of the city having materially profited thereby. What prophet or son of a prophet can say, insinuateness (?) will be developed by promotion thus earned?

About this time forty-three years ago a comparatively obscure and unknown professor at the Virginia Military Institute was commissioned a colonel in the Army of Virginia, and ordered to duty at and near Harper's Ferry. On arrival and familiar with the situation and surroundings, he recommended and urged certain plans and movements, which he thought necessary to be done and done quickly; but the Confederate authorities (then in Richmond and in supreme command), ignored his advice, and gave him other orders. He actually wrote his resignation and was, with difficulty, persuaded to withhold it. A little more than two years from that date, the one and only General Robert E. Lee, wrote, on the battlefield of Chancellorsville to the peerless Lieutenant-General T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson: "If it had been the will of God, he could wish himself to have been taken, and he could have been spared to their country and its cause."

It is not descending from the sublime to the ridiculous, to apply the principle involved in the promotion of such a man, who did superlatively well, in every position to which he was promoted; to the man selected this week, to be the Mayor of Richmond for the next term.

Captain Carlton McCarthy has done well and been faithful and efficient in his service of the city, so far. Let us hope and expect he will measure up to the standard he has publicly set for himself. May a satisfied constituency be able to say, at the close of his term, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" J. D. April 28, 1904.

The Cities of England.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—I read with interest the introductory note to "How cities are governed in England," in Sunday's Times-Dispatch, and expected a treat from such a seemingly gifted author, but as soon as I read the part about British railways I found that though the author may excel in word painting he does not do so either in fairness or accuracy."

He says that the accommodations in the three classes on the railroads are practically the same. Common sense will teach us one better. How many Englishmen travel in the second class for what they can get for one penny. He says that if it were not for the signs one would have no way of knowing whether he was in a first class or third class compartment. "There are none so blind as those who do not wish to see."

The first class cars are fully upholstered on seats and back, and the seats are divided with armrests so that only three can sit on one side, while the third class compartments have no upholstering at all, and five persons are required to sit on one side. The law regulates the price of third class fares, on certain trains each way, so that the railway companies are not allowed to charge over one penny per mile.

In the author's slap against the young woman from Central Illinois, who writes English society novels, he says that if she could see her hero and heroine gain their honeymoon trip in a typical first class English railway train, she would never attempt another. Can Mr. Adams prove that the young woman does not know more about English trains than he does? How does he know that she has not seen them start off? I am sure that most newly married couples would rather be in compartment alone than in a crowded American car. I am afraid Mr. Adams is very illiterate or dyspeptic.

I am not familiar with the details of railroad machinery and fail to understand why British wheels have top and skid while ours have bottom when they are made the same as American ones. All car wheels are made tapering or of a larger diameter towards the inner edge or flange, so that the tendency of the train to run in a straight line instead of taking the curve, throws the larger diameter of the wheel on the outer rail and the smaller diameter of the other wheel on the inner rail so that there is little slipping or skidding necessary. Will the author explain why this rule will not work on British tracks as well as on American?

The author writes that when the conductor desires to collect or inspect tickets, the train is halted long enough to permit him to open each separate door for that purpose. The rule is to inspect tickets just before a train begins its run to make sure that no passenger has gone on the wrong train and the tickets are not impeded or looked at again until the last stoppage before the train when all tickets are taken up, not by one conductor, but by several men who are kept at that stoppage so that there is little or no delay from that cause. Passengers who get off before the terminus

continue, which are believed urgently to demand a change.

Some have been uncharitable enough to say that social and personal considerations only influence one or two members of the Board of Visitors, knowing as they do that the professors are opposed to the election of a president, and if forced to elect one, prefer a member of the Faculty, when the status of affairs there will remain unchanged.

It is hoped that such belief has no foundation, and that president outside of the Faculty will still soon be elected. This the people and alumnus would. If possible, instead of the present Board, the latter should still fall to agree upon such a one, the Board should be merged of any that may be moved by self-interest or an overriding social desire to thwart the proper action of the Board, or perhaps preferably to seek the appointment of a new Board. Whatever be the motive, whether selfish or otherwise, if the Board cannot elect a president outside of the Faculty, a new Board must necessarily be appointed for that purpose.

The interest of the University demands prompt action in this matter. May the various societies of alumni throughout the State and other States use their influence to have a proper president appointed as soon as possible.

ALUMNIUM,
Charlottesville, Va., April 26th.

Scarcity of Tobacco Plants indicated.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—Please careful inquiry among tobacco planters in this and other sections of the country, tobacco beds, which were well set in plants days ago, where the land was thirsty or not well trodden, are now comparatively bare. The plants have perished from the cold and drying winds.

The worst feature of the situation is that there is great apathy and indifference on the part of planters, owing to the fact that dark shipping tobacco sold up to this time, has not averaged over 4½ cents per hundred, and that the cost of production. It would seem that the golden egg must at last be slaughtered. What else can be expected when all other products and commodities, owing to the plethora of money, \$31.00 per capita, have been materially advanced in price, and the reorders offer greater inducements to the impudent planter?

The injury to all kinds of fruit and vegetables is likewise very serious.

RICHARD V. GAINES,
Mossington, Va.

A Call for Action.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—Will you allow me, through your popular paper, to express what seems to be the general sentiment of people as to the repeated failures of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia to elect a president of that institution. The people, and especially the alumnus, were not prepared for the failure of the Board to elect a president at its recent meeting. They believed that an able and competent man, the head of the Faculty who would bring honor as well as students and funds to the University, such as Alderman, Moore, Brittett or some other suitable man, would have been chosen. They were surprised that ten University professors were voted for, which would but change the name of the chairman of the Faculty, whilst the same methods would

THESE PRICES WILL ATTRACT MANY THOUSANDS. UNUSUAL CONDITIONS Produce Extraordinary Results.

A BACKWARD SEASON has had its effect upon merchandise values in that importers and manufacturers having taken great losses in their desire to dispose of surplus stock. We present this array of New Seasonable Merchandise that you will readily know at once that something unusual has happened to get such merchandise at such low prices. Marvelously low prices, that will make extraordinary business.

Silks of the Most Desirable Sorts at Very Interesting Prices.

Never were silks more favored by men to be maltreated and even murdered without being able to make an outcry or in any way attract attention, is another remarkable statement of the author. Will he kindly give the number of times this has happened within the last twenty years?

No doubt it has happened, but very rarely. Has it not happened in our homes and in the crowded streets of cities? There is a signal cord running through each compartment, and it cannot be very high up, as the author says that the car is just high enough for a well proportioned man to stand up in. A pull on this cord will stop the train directly.

"It took us an hour and twenty minutes to run the 25 miles," complains the author. I suppose he would like us to believe that he is about the regular rate of speed. A short time ago I had to travel to a depot of 26 miles from Richmond. It took me two hours and ten minutes, and we were on schedule time at that, the train was carrying Uncle Sam's mails, too, yet the train was stopped on the road and loaded with gravel for ballasting the track. It was simply an accommodation train. Should it be published as an example of American railroading and of dispatch of mails?

It is useless to point out further inaccuracies, so as the author refers to the belated Englishman who, in the pen, and to the way of how not to do a thing. I will simply refer him to a few lines by George Burroughs and recommend him to study them and in future to remember that the pot should never call the kettle black.

"O would some power the giftie giv' us To see ourselves as others see us! It would from many a blunder free us And foolish notion."

R. F. RITCHIE.

A Monument to Maury.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir.—While it is gratifying to all who hold Commodore M. F. Maury in grateful remembrance to see that Senator Martin has made a move in the matter of a monument to his memory, yet it is to be hoped that the figures mentioned (twenty thousand dollars) by your Washington correspondent is not correct.

Otherwise, it will be forced to use the language of Old Uncle Billy, in Dr. Nelson's beautiful story of "Mehedy," when he (Uncle Billy) wished to purchase the mule, and his young mistress named the price. The old slave looked wonderfully wise, but shook his head, and said: "You can't disqually dat mule by any such price, for he is wof three times money or he ain't wot nuthin'."

The sum of twenty thousand dollars seems so out of proportion to the just claim of this great man to have a monument commensurate with his fame that I can but express surprise, and when the feature of light-house is mentioned in connection therewith, and to let that feature predominate, I am amazed!

President Comodore was the "Bonaparte Light" that first illuminated the pathway across the Atlantic, and the "Crown Heads" of Europe, long ago, wished to honor him with a suitable monument, but at that time the spleen of this government was so impregnated with the gall of bitter resentment because he followed the fortunes of his native State in the Civil war, they would not approve the plan.

Twenty thousand dollars, indeed! That amount should pay for the foundation, and if the Rip-Raps are gradually sinking, then place it in "Crazy Island" or Newport News. Surely Virginia will date the land for the purpose.

P. F. B.
Blue Ridge Springs, Va.

School Trustees.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir.—The editor of the Times-Dispatch will greatly oblige a great many of the best citizens of the State by stating in simple terms what he conceives to be the plain and proper construction of the constitutional provisions and legislative enactments as to the qualifications and appointment of public school trustees in Virginia.

All patriotic citizens feel a deep interest in the development of the educational interests of the old Commonwealth and are anxious that no mistakes be made in the appointment of those who are to control and manage these interests. They realize that an opportunity is now afforded for securing the best men to fill these positions of honor and trust. Is it not plain that the legislators intended to rebuke those trustees who had been guilty of nepotism? Was it not the complaint of this practice on the part of many trustees that they were not from the different sections of the State that influenced the legislature in enacting such measures?

Did not the Legislature, in enacting such laws, intend to serve notice on the appointing powers that they were to be more judicious in their selection of men to control the public school interests of the State? Do not the laws imply that there should be a new deal in making the appointments in order that those trustees who had erred in that direction could be gotten rid of entirely, and that men in thorough sympathy with the highest ideals should be appointed in their stead?

If such be true, it is hardly conceivable how any self-respecting man who, as trustee, has been connected with the public school interests of the State could consistently accept the position of a constitution and legal envoys of a Legislature, by implication if not for positive declaration, indicted him as being guilty of questionable action in the appointment of trustees.

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Batiste, 36 inches; good colors, for.....

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Angora, 36 inches wide, for.....

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Albatross, 36 inches wide, for.....

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